

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A rack for horizontally supporting and storing at least three bottles comprising:

a surface of the rack having an upper relief configuration which defines at least one set of three compartments configured to accept a bottle in each compartment, with each bottle laid out horizontally;

each compartment defining a wider area and an opposite narrower area, wherein each set of compartments is defined by

two adjacent first compartments, which are equal in length, are parallel and substantially run together with the same horizontal orientation of respective wider area and narrower area, the two first compartments being on a same first plane, and

a third, inverted compartment on an elevated second plane which is elevated relative to the first plane;

the third compartment being horizontally parallel to the first compartment, with the narrower area of the third compartment being positioned between the corresponding narrower areas of the two first compartments and substantially in contact with the wider area of the two first compartments and the wider area of the third compartment extending horizontally away from the first compartment;

the upper relief configuration further defining a lower relief configuration configured such that when a plurality of the racks are stacked over each other, bottles positioned on a lower rack are enclosed by the lower relief configuration of an upper rack and the upper relief configuration of the lower rack.

2. (Previously Presented) The rack for horizontally supporting and storing bottles according to claim 1, wherein the second plane of the third, compartment is elevated relative to the first plane, and the height of said elevation is half the width of the wider area of the two first compartments.

3. (Previously Presented) The rack for horizontally supporting and storing bottles according to claim 1, wherein the relief is formed by at least two rows each comprised of sets of compartments.

4. (Previously Presented) The rack for horizontally supporting and storing bottles according to claim 3, wherein the first parallel compartments in each set of compartments have different rows laid out symmetrically.

5. (Previously Presented) The rack for horizontally supporting and storing bottles according to the claim 3, wherein the first compartments in each set of compartments have different rows in the same direction.

6. (Previously Presented) The rack for horizontally supporting and storing bottles according to claim 1, wherein the surface of the rack is manufactured in a laminate material.

7. (Canceled)

8. (New) The rack for horizontally supporting and storing bottles according to claim 1, wherein all bottles located at the first plane are oriented in the same first direction and all bottles located at the elevated second plane are oriented in the same second direction, the second direction being reverse of the first direction.

9. (New) A rack for horizontally supporting and storing at least three bottles comprising:

a two-tiered upper relief configuration which defines at least one set of three compartments configured to accept a bottle in each compartment, with each bottle laid out horizontally, each compartment defining a wider area and an opposite narrower area, the two-tiered upper relief configuration including

a first tier having two adjacent first compartments of the three compartments, the first compartments being equal in length and parallel, all bottles located within the first compartments of the first tier being oriented in the same first direction, and

a second tier elevated with respect to the first tier, the second tier having a third compartment of the three compartments, the third compartment being inverted and horizontally parallel with respect to the first compartments, with the narrower area of the third compartment being positioned between the corresponding narrower areas of the two first compartments and substantially in contact with the wider area of the two first compartments and the wider area of the third compartment extending horizontally away from the first compartment, all bottles located within third compartments of the second tier being oriented in the same second direction, the second direction being reverse of the first direction;

the upper relief configuration further defining a lower relief configuration configured such that when a plurality of the racks are stacked over each other, bottles positioned on a lower rack are enclosed by the lower relief configuration of an upper rack and the upper relief configuration of the lower rack.